

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

*Muslim Cov.***CONFIDENTIAL**

C O N F I D E N T I A L 211005Z MAR 80 STAFF

CITE FBIS/LONDON 23833 SECTION 1 OF 2

TO: FBIS.

REFS: A. FBIS 10265  
B. FBIS 10295*cc: C/FCS**C/DRD**C/EDSS*

25X1

1. DURING D/FBIS' VISIT I PROMISED THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE COMMENT ON THE PLAN OUTLINED IN REF A. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT STAFFING WHICH APPEARS DANGEROUSLY THIN IN ONE OR TWO AREAS. WHILE WE HAVE APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FROM AMBASSADOR FOR SIZEABLE INCREASE IN THE BUREAU'S PERSONNEL STRENGTH, HE NATURALLY IS GOING TO WANT SPECIFICS FAIRLY SOON, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS INCREASES IN U.S. STAFF EMPLOYEES. WE ALSO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASE IN MANAGEMENT EFFORT INVOLVED; WE ARE ABOUT AT THE END OF OUR RESOURCES NOW, GIVEN THE NUMBER OF DISSIMILAR ACTIVITIES GOING ON AT THE BUREAU. WE CANNOT HEAP ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES ON OUR COMPONENT CHIEFS. LET'S LOOK AT THE PROJECTS ONE BY ONE AND TRY TO SEE WHAT IT ALL ADDS UP TO IN TERMS OF MANNING.

2. ISLAMABAD PROJECT: BEFORE WE CAN REALLY COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS COVERAGE WE WILL NEED PROMPT AND DETAILED GUIDANCE FROM FCS ON NUMBER OF CASTS TO BE TAKEN, LANGUAGES INVOLVED, AND ESTIMATE OF HOW MUCH CAN BE HANDLED THROUGH PROGRAM SUMMARIES AND HOW MUCH WILL REQUIRE TEXTING. WE ALSO NEED CLEAR GUIDANCE ON HOW THIS EFFORT IS TO MESH WITH AN EXPANDED GULF BUREAU. THE FIGURE OF SIX MONITORS APPEARS THIN TO US. REF B, INDICATES THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR NINE LANGUAGES OR DIALECTS. OUR RECRUITING EXPERIENCE THUS FAR INDICATES THAT WE WILL HAVE A HARD ENOUGH TIME EVEN LOCATING SOME OF THESE, WITHOUT EXPECTING THEM TO OCCUR IN DOUBLETS. NINE MONITORS MAY BE A MORE REALISTIC ESTIMATE.

3. WE WILL NEED ONE STAFF EDITOR, PREFERABLY AT THE GS-13 LEVEL TO MANAGE THE OPERATION. THE RADIO SETUP WOULD BE A WHOLLY NEW AND INDEPENDENT OPERATION WITH ITS OWN REQUIREMENTS. AS NOTED

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 ABOVE, IT CANNOT BE SADDLED ONTO ONE OF THE PRESENT COMPONENT MANAGERS

WITH ANY EXPECTATION THAT IT WOULD GET THE ATTENTION IT WILL NEED.  
 IT ALSO APPEARS THAT WE MAY NEED A BOARDMAN, DEPENDING ON THE  
 TIME SPREAD AND NUMBER OF THE CASTS TO BE MONITORED (SEE BELOW).

4. BUT THERE ARE OTHER MORE PRESSING CONSIDERATIONS. JOHN [REDACTED] HAS HAD DARK SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS HASTY STATEMENT AT LAST OCTOBER'S COORDINATION MEETING THAT HE "WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER" FBIS SETTING UP ITS OWN RADIO/TV MONITORING UNIT AT CAVERSHAM. HE NOW SAYS THAT HE HAS, IN FACT, THE "STRONGEST RESERVATIONS" ABOUT FBIS EMBARKING ON ANY SUCH ACTIVITY. THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE AND CRITICAL PROBLEM FOR BBC IN HAVING TWO SETS OF RADIO MONITORS OPERATING UNDER ONE ROOF BUT PAID ACCORDING TO VERY DIFFERENT PAY SCALES. THE HIGHER SALARIES WHICH FBIS WOULD HAVE TO OFFER ITS EMPLOYEES WOULD PROVOKE IMMEDIATE STRONG RESENTMENT, AND NO DOUBT COUNTERACTION OF SOME KIND, FROM BBC'S MONITORS AND THEIR UNIONS. FOR THE BUREAU, BRINGING IN TCN'S--AS SOME OF THE ISLAMABAD PROJECT MONITORS ALMOST INEVITABLY WOULD HAVE TO BE--WOULD CREATE ANTAGONISMS AMONG OUR OWN LOCAL EMPLOYEES [REDACTED] TCN BENEFITS ARE RESENTED BY ALL THE OLD CYPRUS HANDS WHO HOLD BRITISH PASSPORTS), LEAD TO CONSTANT BACKBITING AND GREATLY EXACERBATE OUR ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS.

5. [REDACTED] IS PROPOSING THAT, INSTEAD OF JUMPING INTO THIS PROJECT ON OUR OWN, FBIS CONTRACT WITH BBC TO DO IT FOR US. THIS APPROACH WOULD IMMEDIATELY FREE US OF PROBLEMS OF MODE, NUMBERS OF POSITIONS, BBC-FBIS PAY SCALE CONFLICTS, TCN RESENTMENTS, HOLD DOWN THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK LOAD, AND GREATLY REDUCE COSTS OVERALL. WE WOULD GIVE BBC OUR REQUIREMENTS, WHICH WE WOULD EXPECT THEM TO MEET IN RETURN FOR AN AGREED SUM OF MONEY. WE WOULD STILL NEED THE AMERICAN EDITOR TO KEEP THE PROJECT MOVING AND ON TARGET, AND WE WOULD NEED THE SUPPORT PERSONNEL (I'LL COME BACK TO THAT LATER), BUT WE'D BE FREE OF THE MODE, RECRUITING, SPACE, MANAGEMENT AND OTHER HEADACHES THAT WOULD GO ALONG WITH HAVING OUR OWN CADRE ON MONITORS.

6. CONTRARY TO THE POINT-OF-VIEW THAT WAS WIDELY ACCEPTED A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, [REDACTED] HAS NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT TAKING

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ABLE TO CARRY HER OWN LOAD IN THE PARTNERSHIP--AND THE REAL FEAR THAT IF WHITEHALL FELT THEY COULD RELY ON THE AMERICANS TO BAIL THEM OUT WHENEVER THEY DECIDED TO CUT BUDGETS, THE FUTURE OF THE BBC MONITORING SERVICE COULD BE IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY. WE HAVE TALKED A NUMBER OF TIMES ABOUT THIS QUESTION OF CROSS PAYMENTS. I THINK WE BOTH HAVE AGREED THAT WHEN A PARTICULAR COVERAGE ACTIVITY IS OF HIGH INTEREST TO BOTH SERVICES (THIS WOULD INCLUDE ALL OF THE MAJOR COVERAGE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS: SPAIN/ PORTUGAL, UGANDA, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN) THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF JOINT FUNDING. BUT IF AN ACTIVITY IS REQUESTED BY ONE SERVICE, WHICH THE OTHER WOULD NEVER CONSIDER UNDERTAKING FOR ITS OWN CUSTOMERS, A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT OR CROSS PAYMENT OF SOME KIND COULD WELL BE IN ORDER. THE ISLAMABAD PROJECT ALMOST EXACTLY FITS THIS TYPE OF SITUATION, AS BBC WOULD NEVER CONTEMPLATE EMBARKING ON THE BULK OF THE DESIRED COVERAGE FOR ITS OWN CUSTOMERS.

7. I RECOMMEND WE GIVE THIS OPTION VERY CLOSE CONSIDERATION. IT HAS MANY SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES AND ALMOST NO DRAWBACKS, EXCEPT THE ONE OF MAINTAINING HEADWAY AND CONTROL. BUT THAT WOULD BE A TASK OF BUREAU MANAGEMENT TOGETHER WITH THE EDITOR ASSIGNED TO THE PROJECT. IF WE DECIDE TO PICK UP THIS OPTION, WE OUGHT TO SET FORTH OUR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS PROMPTLY SO BBC CAN STAFF THE PROJECT OUT AND BEGIN RECRUITING. AS THINGS STAND NOW, BETWEEN LONDON, BBC AND GULF, WE ARE ALL COMPETING IN RECRUITING A FINITE RESOURCE.

8. PAPHOS PROJECT: BEYOND THE NOTION OF AVOIDING SPLIT LIBYAN COVERAGE, REMOTING TO LONDON FROM EGYPT MAKES NO SENSE TO US OR TO BBC. BBC'S ARABIC TEAM HAS ABOUT AS MUCH WORK AS IT CAN HANDLE; LONDON BUREAU SHUDDERS AT THE THOUGHT OF ADDING TWO ARABIC MONITORS TO ITS MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS (PARTICULARLY IF WE TURN THE ISLAMABAD PROJECT OVER TO THE BBC); NICOSIA HAS A UNIFIED ARABIC TEAM WITH LOTS OF EXPERIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY. IF LEASED LINES FROM EGYPT ARE REQUIRED, TERMINATE THEM IN NICOSIA.

9. SOVIET TV/FAX PROJECT: BBC ENGINEERS ARE QUITE SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF INTERCEPTING SOVIET SATELLITE TV PICTURES AND FAX IN GREAT BRITAIN. WE NEED TO TEST THE BASIS OF THIS PROJECT QUICKLY, BEFORE WE GET TOO INVOLVED IN PLANNING OR

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[REDACTED] COMMIT MONEY TO IT. [REDACTED] VERY SUCCESSFUL. 25X1  
IN SOUTH AFRICA. THEY BELIEVE IT  
CAN BE SEEN EQUALLY WELL FROM THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREA IN CYPRUS.  
THEY WILL ARRANGE A TEST SHORTLY IN THE SBA AND LET US KNOW THE  
RESULTS.

10. BUT IF IT PROVES OUT THAT FBIS CAN EFFECTIVELY [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] IN ENGLAND WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO MOUNT THE ANTENNA 25X1  
SYSTEM AT BBC'S CROWSLEY PARK ANTENNA SITE. ONCE THE SYSTEM IS  
UP AND RUNNING, BBC CAN HANDLE IT FOR US. WE SHOULD NOT NEED AN  
ENGINEER SOLELY FOR THIS PURPOSE. A STAFF ENGINEER WILL BE  
REQUIRED FOR THE ISLAMABAD PROJECT SINCE IT INVOLVES A [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] A TECHNICIAN OF SOME KIND ALSO MAY BE 25X1  
REQUIRED BY THE ISLAMABAD PROJECT IF A BOARDMAN TURNS OUT TO BE  
NEEDED.

11. THE SOVIET TV/FAX PROJECT WILL REQUIRE THAT LONDON ADD  
AT LEAST A THIRD RUSSIAN VOICE MONITOR. THIS PERSON IS  
NEEDED TO DO THE PROGRAM SELECTION, TUNING AND RECORDING WORK  
NOW BEING DONE BY OUR CONTRACTOR IN MOSCOW.

12. MIDDLE EAST/SOUTHWEST ASIA ROUNDUP: THIS REQUIRES THE  
ADDITION OF ONE STAFF EDITOR AND ONE LOCAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
POSITION. NO PROBLEM.

13. SUPPORT: ALTHOUGH MENTION IS MADE IN REF A OF ADDING  
"TWO SUPPORT LOCALS," NOTHING SPECIFIC IS SAID ABOUT EITHER  
ADMINISTRATIVE OR TELETYPE HELP. WE ARE IN TROUBLE IN THE TELE-  
TYPE SECTION RIGHT NOW AND HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR AN INCREASE  
OF ONE OPERATOR. WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL OUTPUT WITHOUT  
ADDITIONAL TELETYPE SUPPORT. IT'S HARD TO JUDGE HOW MUCH COPY  
THE MUSLIM WORLD PROJECTS MIGHT GENERATE, BUT MY GUESS IS WE  
SHOULD FIGURE ON TWO MORE TELEOPS AT A MINIMUM (NOT INCLUDING THE  
ONE WE NEED RIGHT NOW).

14. IN TERMS OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, WE APPEAR TO BE  
TALKING ABOUT A PERSONNEL INCREASE OF 18 AT THE WORST CASE  
(PAPHOS AND ISLAMABAD MONITORS INCLUDED), OR AN INCREASE OF 10  
AT THE MOST FAVORABLE CASE (PAPHOS AND ISLAMABAD MONITORS MANAGED

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BY NICOSIA AND BBC). IN EITHER CASE, IT'S TOO GREAT A BOOST  
TO LOAD ONTO OUR PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. ONE ADDITIONAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE LOCAL WILL BE REQUIRED.

15. FINALLY, THERE IS THE NOT INCONSIDERABLE QUESTION OF  
SPACE TO HOUSE 10 TO 18 ADDITIONAL PEOPLE. IF WE TURN THE  
ISLAMABAD PROJECT OVER TO BBC (AND PAPHOS/EGYPT TO NICOSIA)  
THE SPACE HEADACHES WILL BE THEIRS TO DEAL WITH. WE CAN PROBABLY  
SANDWICH THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT INTO THE LONDON OFFICE  
(NOT COMFORTABLY FOR ANYONE, BUT IT CAN PROBABLY BE DONE). THE  
TELETYPISTS, ROUNDUP EDITOR AND RESEARCH LOCAL CAN BE ACCOMMODATED.  
THE MAIN PROBLEMS WILL BE WITH THE ENGINEER, TECHNICIAN AND WITH  
THE ISLAMABAD PROJECT EDITOR. WE'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS IN  
DETAIL WITH BBC, BUT I'M FAIRLY CONFIDENT WE CAN COME TO SOME  
ARRANGEMENT. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE TO FIND SPACE TO  
HOUSE 6 TO 8 VOICE MONITORS PLUS THEIR EQUIPMENT AND SUPERVISOR,  
WE ARE IN DEEP, DEEP TROUBLE. WE WILL HAVE TO LOOK INTO CONSTRUC-  
TING AN ANNEX (LIKE PMU) SOMEWHERE ON THE GROUNDS, OR RENTING  
AND COMPLETELY RENOVATING A HOUSE IN THE NEARBY SUBURBS AND  
RUNNING A COURIER BACK AND FORTH. ALL THIS MEANS MONEY AND TIME--  
ANOTHER COMPELLING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF LETTING BBC HAVE A  
CRACK AT THE ISLAMABAD PROJECT, ONE WOULD THINK.

16. FINALLY (AN ITEM THAT PRMBABLY HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND IN  
THE DUST RISING OVER ALL THE MUSLIM WORLD INITIATIVES), WHAT  
HAPPENS TO THE BRUSSELS TV/RADIO PROJECT WE ARE AIMED FOR A  
TEST OF THE TV CHANNELS, PROBABLY IN OCTOBER. EVEN IF THE  
RESULTS ARE POSITIVE, ARE WE PUTTING THIS PROJECT ON THE BACK OF  
THE BACK BURNER. IT HAS ITS OWN MANPOWER AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS,  
AND [REDACTED] PRESENT STRICTURES ABOUT AN INDEPENDENT FBIS  
VOICE MONITORING ACTIVITY APPLY EQUALLY TO BRUSSELS AS TO THE  
MUSLIM WORLD.

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